



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/090,625	03/06/2002	Tetsuya Yamashita	8008-1003	4918

466 7590 04/05/2005

YOUNG & THOMPSON
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET
2ND FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

HOLLAR, ANDREA B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2142

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/090,625

Applicant(s)

YAMASHITA, TETSUYA

Examiner

Andrea Hollar

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2002.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 March 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/02, 6/03, 7/03.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 230. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shuichi (2000-092107) in view of Yuuji (09-330284).

With respect to claim 1, Shuichi discloses a system comprising:

a main unit (par. 21, line 3);

two or more subordinate terminals which send, for acquiring an IP address of said main unit at a connection start, a DHCP message (par. 20, lines 2-3; par. 21, line 1); and

a transmitting line which connects said main unit, and said subordinate terminals (par. 21, line 1).

Shuichi does not expressly disclose that the DHCP message includes terminal identification information or an address administration unit having a terminal identification information authorizing part which authorizes terminal identification information attached to said DHCP message and a DHCP server function part which notifies only terminals which have passed the authorization of IP address information.

Yuuji teaches that terminal identification information such as a MAC address can be included in a request for an IP address (par. 11, lines 2-5). Yuuji also teaches a unit that performs an authorization check on information received in an IP request message (col. 12, lines 1-2) and a unit that sends notification to terminals that have passed the authorization check of whether the terminal is already listed in the directory (par. 12, lines 2-8).

Shuichi and Yuuji are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor of IP address allocation.

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to equip Shuichi's system with the ability to determine whether a requesting terminal is authorized to receive an IP address by including Yuuji's authorization apparatus in Shuichi's directory server apparatus.

The motivation for doing so would have been to prevent Shuichi's system from allocating the same IP address to more than one terminal, as taught by Yuuji (par. 3, line 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yuuji with Shuichi for the benefit of improved address allocation to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

With respect to claim 2, Shuichi discloses that said DHCP server function part attaches an assigned IP address and also main unit IP address information to a DHCP message to terminals (par. 22, lines 1-2).

Shuichi does not expressly disclose attaching only the assigned address IP address to a DHCP message to terminals which have failed in authorization.

Yuuji teaches to return an IP address to a terminal that fails authorization criteria (par. 12, lines 8-11).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to allow Shuichi's system to send an IP address to a terminal that does not already have one assigned to it, if Shuichi's system is equipped as described in claim 1.

The motivation for doing so would have been to assign an IP address to a terminal only if it does not already have one assigned to it (Yuuji col. 3, line 3).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Yuuji with Shuichi for the benefit of improved address allocation to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

With respect to claim 3, Shuichi discloses:

a main unit (par. 21, line 3);

two or more subordinate terminals which acquire an IP address of said main unit at a connection start (par. 20, lines 2-3; par. 21, line 1);

sending a DHCP message at a subordinate terminal connection start to a directory server requesting an IP address of the directory server;

notifying subordinate terminals of a main unit IP address information (par. 22, lines 1-2) ; and

a transmitting line which connects said main unit, said subordinate terminals, and the directory server (par. 21, line 1).

Shuichi does not expressly disclose an address administration unit having a DHCP server function part; a terminal identification information authorizing unit; that the subordinate terminals send terminal identification information to a terminal identification information authorizing unit IP address received from said address administration unit; or that said terminal identification information authorizing unit authorizes said received terminal identification information and notifies only subordinate terminals which have passed the authorization of a main unit IP address information.

Yuuji teaches an address manager (par. 12, lines 1-2) that checks terminal authorization and returns IP addresses to requesting terminals. Yuuji also teaches that terminals can send identification information to an authorization unit (par. 11, lines 2-5; par. 18, line 1) and that if the terminal passes the authorization criteria of not being registered in a table, to send IP address information to the terminal (par. 12, lines 8-11).

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to equip Shuichi's system with the ability to determine whether a requesting terminal is authorized to receive an IP address by including Yuuji's authorization apparatus in Shuichi's directory server apparatus.

The motivation for doing so would have been to prevent Shuichi's system from allocating the same IP address to more than one terminal, as taught by Yuuji (par. 3, line 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yuuji with Shuichi for the benefit of improved address allocation to obtain the invention as specified in claim 3.

With respect to claim 4, Shuichi further discloses that said address administration unit comprises a DHCP server and a directory server connected to said transmission line (par. 21, line 1; par. 21, line 3); and said main unit IP address information is an IP address of said directory server (par. 22, line 1).

With respect to claim 5, Shuichi further discloses that said address administration unit comprises a DHCP server and a directory server connected to said transmission line (par. 21, line 1; par. 21, line 3); and said main unit IP address information is an IP address of said directory server (par. 22, line 1).

With respect to claim 6, Shuichi further discloses that said address administration unit comprises a DHCP server and a directory server connected to said transmission line (par. 21, line 1; par. 21, line 3); and said main unit IP address information is an IP address of said directory server (par. 22, line 1).

With respect to claim 9, Shuichi further discloses that said subordinate terminals are network computers (par. 17, line 4) and said main unit is an NC server (par. 21, line 3).

With respect to claim 10, Shuichi further discloses that said subordinate terminals are network computers (par. 17, line 4) and said main unit is an NC server (par. 21, line 3).

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shuichi in view of Yuuji as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of Gritzer (2003/0142805).

Shuichi and Yuuji do not expressly disclose that said subordinate terminals are LAN telephones and said main unit is a system control unit, thereby constructing a LAN telephone system.

Gritzer teaches that DHCP can be used to determine the IP address of an IP telephone and that the IP address is obtained from a gatekeeper control unit (par. 30, lines 5-17).

Art Unit: 2142

Shuichi, Yuuji, and Gritzer are analogous art because they are all from the same field of endeavor of IP address assignment.

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that Shuichi's network terminals and directory server could be LAN telephones and a LAN telephone control unit because it is known that LAN telephones can obtain IP addresses in a comparable way as network terminals (par. 30, lines 13-15).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Gritzer with Shuichi and Yuuji for the benefit of implementing an IP telephone system to obtain the invention as specified in claims 7 and 8.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea Hollar whose telephone number is 571-272-5862. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Harvey can be reached on 571-272-3896. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ABH

Andrea Hollar
Primary Examiner